



USDA Forest Service
Stanislaus National Forest

Forest closure information

STF-16-2020-19

Sept. 19, 2020

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST Forest Closure Information Update: September 19, 2020

Regional Forester Randy Moore rescinded the regional forest orders 20-12 and 20-13 as of 8 a.m. Sept. 19, 2020, which closed all California national forests to public visitation - including the Stanislaus. Forest Supervisor Jason Kuiken signed Forest Order STF-16-2020-19, Temporary Camping, Occupancy and Use Restrictions, which prohibits recreational target shooting and dispersed camping in the moderate and high fire hazard areas on the forest, but opens the forest for day use between sunrise and sunset, and authorizes some camping in some developed campgrounds.

The order prohibits recreational target shooting on all Stanislaus National Forest lands (898,000 acres). Discharging a firearm while in the act of a lawful hunt is allowed. The Order, Map and associated Record are available on the Stanislaus National Forest public website at <https://go.usa.gov/xGUaq>.

The regional fire restriction order, [20-14](#), prohibits all ignition sources in all areas and elevations of the forest. This includes campfires, propane or gel fuel cookstoves and all smoking materials.

Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-19 will protect natural resources and provide for public safety of forest visitors by limiting activities, occupancy and use in high and moderate fire hazard areas across the forest. It may be extended if weather and fire conditions do not improve. Conversely, if favorable weather and fire conditions are present, we may be able to allow additional activities with less restriction, and the order may be terminated sooner.

This Forest order is based on the STF fire hazard areas, or zones, that are used when conditions require implementation of fire restrictions in any given year. Although the fire hazard areas are normally used for fire restrictions, we are using these area delineations as the basis for occupancy and use given conditions on the forest.

The order itself lists prohibitions; that is, activities and uses that visitors **cannot** participate in while the order is in effect. The information below indicates in a simpler format regarding what visitors can and cannot do while STF-16-2020-19 is in place:

High Fire Hazard Area (Zone A, generally lower elevation; red areas on map) prohibits:

- No camping in any areas, including dispersed and developed campgrounds
- No overnight stays
- No campfires, propane or gel fuel campstoves, no smoking materials
- No target shooting

Visits to day use areas from dawn to dusk are authorized.

Moderate Fire Hazard Area (Zone B, generally mid elevation zone; beige areas on map) prohibits:

No dispersed camping in all areas

No campfires, propane or gel fuel campstoves, no smoking materials

No target shooting

Visits to day use areas from dawn to dusk are authorized.

Camping is authorized in developed campgrounds only. For a list of open campgrounds visit the Stanislaus National Forest web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus>.

Low Fire Hazard Area (Zone C, generally high elevations; green areas on map)

No campfires, propane or gel fuel campstoves, no smoking materials

No target shooting

Visits to day use areas from dawn to dusk are authorized.

Developed and dispersed camping is authorized. For a list of open campgrounds visit the Stanislaus National Forest web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus>.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Emergency Fire Restrictions: the current Regional Order 20-14 remains in effect through September 24. This order covers all California national forests, including the Stanislaus. **NO CAMPFIRES; NO USE OF STOVES; NO SMOKING** – anywhere on any California national forest, including the Stanislaus.
2. All roads, trails and trailheads on the Stanislaus National Forest are open for use. Access through private lands – including SPI – may not be allowed. Visitors are encouraged to check with private landholders like SPI to confirm access availability. Please know where you are; respect locked gates. And please recognize that it will take some time to get gates re-opened.
3. Please recreate responsibly.
 - a. Many fires continue to burn throughout the west and firefighting resources are stretched thin. Resources may not be readily available to respond to a fire on the STF.
 - b. Pay attention to changing conditions, like weather, smoke or active fires. Stay alert to what is going on around you. We recommend you check Inciweb and the CAL FIRE incident management pages to determine any fires burning along your travel routes. Links to air quality and incident pages are posted on the Stanislaus NF web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus>.
 - c. With forest staff assisting with fires in other locations, staffing is limited to service open recreation sites and dispersed facilities. Visitors are urged to please take their trash home after their visit. Many developed sites closed earlier in the year due to COVID-19 and/or limited staff remain closed. Visitors are urged to respect all closures.
 - d. Stay safe. As you plan your visit, make sure someone back home knows where you are going and when you expect to return home.

